

From: Wiggers, Tom
To: 'Microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
Date: 12/13/01 4:45pm
Subject: The proposals of the nine states and DC are just and fair. MS is hurting competition.

Please impose the proposals of the nine states and District of Columbia on Microsoft. It frightens me as an American that Microsoft seems more powerful than our justice system.

When our free enterprise system is not effectively regulated, when corporations are allowed to rely on unethical business practices rather than product merits to compete in the marketplace, the terrific benefits of capitalism to society are greatly diminished. Innovation is not rewarded; mediocrity prevails.

Case in point: In the 60's and 70's, automobile innovations were not happening because the entrenched Detroiters killed any new competition. When you look back now, you can see how poorly engineered the cars were as a result of this stagnation of new ideas. But the Japanese were outside the influence of Detroit and started innovating like crazy. They really shook up the auto industry and scared the [censored] out of us. But now look how we the consumers have benefited. The average consumer can now afford a car that will easily last 200,000 miles, the knobs don't fall off, the paint resists rust, and almost every car has power windows, air conditioning and a zillion cup holders. the Japanese really upped the ante to everyone's benefit.

One might ask where we draw the line. Answer: When corporate practices are allowed to inhibit healthy competition. By any measure, Microsoft is abominably beyond this line and is thumbing its nose at our free enterprise system, the DOJ, and consumers. In this respect, Microsoft Corp. might even be characterized as being "un-American".

Competition is absolutely sacred. Fair Enterprise = Free Enterprise.

Sadly, Mr. Gates is modeling very clearly to our children that ethics are an obstacle to success.

Sincerely,
T. Wiggers
Beaverton, Oregon